

THE COPY
OF A LETTER,
LATELY VVRITTEN
BY A SPANISHE GENTLEMAN,
TO HIS FREIND IN ENGLAND: IN
refutation of sundry calumnies, there falsly
bruted, and spred emonge the
people.

The originall vwhereof vvas vvritten in Spanishe, since the authors being
in England, vwho by reason of a ship of those that miscaried of the
late Armado, vvas taken, and there detained prisoner, vtill his de-
liuery by ransome.

*Now newly translated into Englishe, for the benefite of those
(of that nation) that vnderstand not the Spanishe tounge.*



Anno, M. D. LXXIX.

45.
6. 30

1277



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*freind in England: in refutation of sundry calumnies,
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GOOD Sir, and courteous freinde,
since the tyme of my late deli-
uery from captiuitie, I haue
often called to mynde, how de-
sirous I founde you, to vnder-
stand the truthe of our intentiō,
thoughe litle doubtfull of the

iustnesse of our cause: but seing the suspitious
lealously of guilty consciences, permitted not such
conuerſation as accordeth vvith humaine curtesy:
and that free speech is theare so farr intolerable,
that men are examyned by torture, not onuly of
there indifferent vvoordes, but euen of their very
thoughtes, and future actions, I vvished oportuni-
tie to giue you ſatisfaction, but vſed ſilence, to
auoyde your trooble.

Well, ſeing it hath ſince pleaſed God, to lend
me lyf, liberty, and meanes to ſend vnto you
(vvhich in ſo dangerous and vvatchfull a vvorld is
moſte difficill to be founde) I could not omit to
vvrite at this preſent, vvhereby your ſelf, and ſuch
others, as to vvhome you may vvith ſaſty commu-
nicate it, may be the better ſatiſfied.

It is to you very apparent, and vvell knowne to
the vvhole vvorld, how it hath of late pleaſed
God, to diſpoſe of mens actions, according to his
ovvne pleaſure: vvhich vve vvill rather accepte as a
punishment for our ſinnes, then take for a diſcou-

Judic. cap. 20. rage-ment to our cause. Neither can our eni-
 myes therein, receaue any occasion to be the more
 insolent, or to glory, in that they deserue not, sithe
 their valour, neuer made our enterprise frustrate:
 themselves confessing, it vvas not donne by the
 puiſance of man, but by the povver of God: vvhich
 they let not to say, may giue sufficient proof of
 their cause: not seeming to remember, how sundry
 examples can giue testimony, of diuers attempts
 misfortuned at the first, that afterward haue succe-
 ded vvel: And of all others, that that of the chil-
 dren of Israell is the moste notable: They being
 comaunded, at two seuerall tymes, by God him-
 self, to make vvar against the tribe of *Beniamin*,
 vvere notwithstanding at bothe those tymes ouer-
 throwne, vvhich yet at the laste preuailed, to the
 great foile and confusion of there enemyes. And
 to giue you an example neerer home, you may
 Totid. Vir. 24. reade, how the expedition that *Iulius Caeſer* made
 into England, not for that the Britaines had assisted
 his rebells robbed his treasure, or entruded them-
 selues into his dominions: but only for that they
 had aydid the frenche, vvhich he made vvar
 against them: came at the first to no effect, yet
 vvere those Britaines no whit the more assured of
 securitie, for the yeare following he returned agai-
 ne, and gat the victorie.

God hath punished vs for our sinnes vvhich are
 great, but the punishment of our faultes, excu-
 seth not your far greater offences, your superiours
 must vvel knowe they haue deserued a plague, and
 their guilty consciences greatly feare to fynde it,
 howsoeuer they struggle and striue against God, as
 did *Nemrode*, vvhich vwith his *Giants* he buylded
 the towre

the towre of *Babilon*, thincking there vvas no other way to ouerthrowe there designementes, then a newe inundation. Gene. cap.

Vaine are those persuations of theirs, that our losses are irrecoverable, and that there remaineth for vs, neither hope nor comforte. Which yf it were so, yet are not they freed from deserued vengeance, and that it is not so, a litle tyme can make manifest. Such speeches only argue, that they haue made a resolution to run on in all impiety, and to trie to the vttermoste, vwhether Gods puissance or their vngodly practises can moſte preuaile: vwhere in they ſhall vwell fynde, that he can many wayes confounde the vicked, vwhen themſelues ſhall no vway preuent it. Meane vvhyle, there outvvarde courage is mixte vvith invvarde care, and there fayned Ioy vvith reſtleſſe iealouſy: vvho in ſeeming to feare nothing, are ſcene to ſtart at their ovvne ſhadovves.

This intolerable feare is more manifested in your Engliſhe Gouvernment, then in any ſtate els in the vvhole vvorld: the great impreſſion thereof enforcing them, to all their ſpyings abroad, and inquisitions at home: ſearchings of houſes more at midnight then at noone dayes, apprehenſions, examinations, and ſuch daily exerciſe, and practiſe of the racke, as neuer the like vvvas hard of: ſtill fynding by experience, that neuer more labour hath bin employed to leſſe purpoſe, thoſe innocents only able to confeſſe no more, then that vvwhich concerneth their ovvne religion and conſcience: notwithstanding all vvwhich, the remedies remaining (rather to patche vp the ſtate of a body ſo far infected, then to cure an incurable diſeaſe) are principally

Daily reading of Catholiques.

A 3

cipally grounded, vpon extreme tyranny, and deepe dissimulation.

*John valen-
tine
Wichampe
re.*

Their tyranny is chiefly extended, to the Catholiques of your owne country, of whome very many before, and sundry since our disastre, they haue cruelly executed: and by false lying libells after there deathes, haue soughte to insinuate that they were of conspiracie vvith vs, albeit it pleased God to discover this their great iniustice, euen in the very execution thereof, for two of that number vvich were nexte after condemned to deathe for treason, condescending throughe frailty, to recant their religion, were forthvvith pardoned, and restored to libettie. Which benefyte of lyf, all the others mighte aswell and as easely haue enjoyed as they, yf the grace of God, had not in them bin the greater. Which euidently argueth for vvhat cause they were condemned, since recantation from treason, after or afore condemnation to death, I neuer kneve could saue a mannes lyf, yf himself list.

Touching their dissimulation, being the ground and substance of their, gouernment, and conteyning the infynite numbers of deceitfull practises, false fictions, and flaunderous lies, vvich asvvell in the vvorld abroade, as also at home, they haue artificially exercysed, in euery action, is suche a laborinthe to looke into, that it vvould rather require a vvhole volume, then a brief relation. I vvil therefore leaue the number of those vnto such as by longe experience, haue made better obseruation then my self: & for breuitie only sett dovvne, some fewve notable examples of their vntrue speaches, familiar to your selues, vvherevvith they haue soughte

foughte to make odious to the people, to calum-
niate and condemne, such as themselves pleased.
By vvhich fevve you may receaue lighte to looke
into the others, and to giue such credit to the like
hereafter, as experience hath prooued, the former
to deserue.

It may therefore please yon (amonge many late
rumours of the lyke condition and qualirie) to cal
to remembrance vvhath dyspytefull pamphlets,
and odious reportes, vvere bruted against the late
duke of *Northfolke*, but you may vvel assure your
self, that neuer any one man of sence believed, that
thesaid Duke euer intended, to haue fyred *London*
in fovyre places.

You haue hard of images of vvas hidden in the
earthe, vvhwhereof bothe bookes and ballettes vvere
spred aboute the country, that this vvas don by
Catholiques, to consume the Queene, and some
other: for the vvhich cause, one *Hardinge* a prote-
stant minister of *Islington* vvas apprehended, char-
ged that he vvas a Papist, moſte cruelly racked, and
vniuſtly condemned to death. And yon haue vn-
derstood aftervvard, that one *Elkes* another prote-
stant, confessed himself to haue bin the doer there
of: yet not to destroy the Queene, but to obtaine
the loue of some Londoners vvyf.

So likevviſe of that other ſhamful and ridicu-
lous rumour, raised against ſundry honorable
Gentlemen, vvhich being a litle to ſoliſhly hadled
by the accuſers at the begining, vvas for very ſhame
in the end, lett fall and ſyncke avvay. Notvwith-
ſtanding it vvas moſt terrible for the tyme, to heare
tell, that the Queene, and the vvhole Courte,
ſhould haue bin blovvne vp vwith gonnpovvder,
vvhich

*The like
vvas ſince
breched by
M. Stafford
but he
vould not
take.*

vvhich vvas said to be conueyed thether in trunc-
kes, and strauved vnder the rufhes.

*Such deu-
ses haue
serued to
extinguishe
the Ann-
ient nobi-
lites.*

An infynite number of suche like blazes haue
bin made, amonge vvhich, the often kylling of the
Queene, and the sundry plotts for the fying of
London, are no meane may-games. But how false
and fayned soeuer they vvere, there turnes thereby
haue bin serued to such purpose, that it hath ex-
tended, euen to the losses of the liues and landes, of
many of greatest vertue and honnour, in the whole
Realme, vvhose innocencies and vniuste sufferings,
equytie and truthe, attend tyme to discouer, how
confidently soeuer in the meane vvhyle, vntruthes
are reported: how generally they may happen to
be believed, and how dangerous it be for any
man in their first aduancement, any vway to in-
nuate the contrary. The vviser sorte vvell seing by
experience, vvhreunto all tendeth, are so suffi-
ciently vvarned by others harme, that they dare
not but seeme to say and soothe, vvhatsoeuer is
agreeable to the humours of their superiours.
Wel knowing that any ly, be it neuer so absurd,
must receaue free passage, yf so be, it fetches his
first originall from the Courte.

But to dravve to my intended purpose, and to
come to that, which concerneth the honnour of
my owne soueraigne, the *Kinge Catholique of Spaine*:
In those particulers whereupon I know you
expect my awnsvvere, of vvhose myld and sweete
proceedings, albeit the whole vworld hath seene
sufficient proof: vvhose very nature abhorreth ri-
gour, and vvhose compassionate mynde neuer
seeketh reuēge: vyho pardoneth such offences, that
to much mercy is rather his faulte, then to seuer
iustice:

iustice: and forgiueth the greatest contempts, that subiects can comitt against there soueraignes: yet is he not free from the venemous tonges of stinging vipers, nor exempt from the lying libells of the malicious Englishe. Pardõ me good Sir, that I speake of your nation as I haue cause, meaning only those that haue giuen thesame: the foule mouthes of your ministers neuer spared to raile against his Catholique Maiesty, nor no contemptible rascall, to reuile him at his pleasure, nothing vvas more frequent then the defaming of my Kynge, nor nothing omitted that might make him most odious.

It vvas made a very cleare case, *that you should all haue bin broughte vnder the bondage of straungers. Who had deuyled your country amonge them, & allotted to themselves, the landes and lyuings, of all the nobilitie and Gentlemen of the Realme: That your wyues and daughters should be violated. That we broughte irons to marche your Children vnder the age of seauen yeares, to the end they mighte be knowne, to be come of the people of a Conquered country. And that your Goods should be robbed and taken from you, &c.*

To ansvvere all which (since you somtyme vrged me, when the tyme nothing serued to giue you satisfaction) I am novv to desire you, firste to consider, that the questiõ vvhether his Catholique Maiesty, hath the iust cause or not, to make vvar against England, is so cleare a case, that no man honest and vvise, can in his conscience doubt thereof. And yf vve looke back into former tymes, vve shall fynde great vvarres, inuasions, and conquests, achiued for farr lesse matters, then the longe taking parte vvith his rebells, or a number of other Englishe iniuries, that can giue sufficient cause vnto our Kynge,

all vvhich sinister dealings, haning bin long shadowed, & shrovvded vnder egregious dissimulations, are now lastly broken oute, into moste opē & apparent iniustice, in the sighte of all the vvorld: and in such foule and shamelesse manner, as is odious to all honest myndes: by filching and stealing of his treasure on the one syde, by sneaking, and encroaching, into his tovvnes and countries, on the other syde: all after a very vile and theevish fashion. Having gayned by force, no one tovvne they hold, nor scarcely defended and kepte by valour, such as his maiesties forces hathe besieged: althonghe by treachery, perjury, and coosinage, they haue somtyme prevented intended exploits.

*At Bergen
on 5th May.*

The iniuries then that his Maiesty hathe receyued, beeing so many, and so manifest, that long since he hath had cause to attempte that, where vnto of latter tymes, he hath bin more and more pronoked. It resteth to regard, vvwhether this cause be giuen him, by the superiours or subiects. That it should proceede from the people, no man can deeme, that it comes from the prince, no man can deny. Whether the reuenge of the faultes of a fewe, should generally extend to the vtter ruyne, & subversion of a vvhole nation, no reason can proue: neither hath such reuenge bin alvvayes comon to pagans and infidells, muche lesse once ment by a Christian king, and most clement prince. Looke vvwhether his proceedings haue bin tyrannous, toward any of his ovvne subiects: and vvwhether euer any haue entred into more outrageous rebellions, then those of the lovve countries, vvho after there longe misdemeamour, did at the lenghte euen vtterly renounce & abiure him: receyued the Duke

of Alençon

of *Alençon* of *france*, inuested him into the Duchie of *Brabant*, and sware vnto him obedience. All vvhich actiōs of theirs, hauing had suche successe, as commonly ensueth the equity of such causes: and many of their cities, since reduced vnto his Maiesties obedience, no one man of them all, hathe for any his former offences bin executed.

Truthe it is, that the Duke of *Alua*, did heretofore vse some seueritie towards them, yet not other then they had deserued, and for one executed by him, your iustice of England vwould haue hāged an hundreth, yf the like case had bin theirs. But notwithstanding that this vvas donne, by due and lawfull iustice, yet vvas it so farr disagreeable to his Maiesties mynde, that the said Duke beeing called into *Spaine*: of all the *Gouernours* vvhich since that tyme haue bin sent thether, no one, nor they all, haue vsed any thing lyke, the lyke seueritie: albeit there offences since, haue so farr exceeded there faultes afore, as the taking of armes (in defence of their priuileges, as they then vnruly spake) is different from the denying there soueraigne, & electing another. Yet such grace and fauour do they fynde, euē at this day, that yeilding theselues, and their cities vnder his obediēce: they are not only absolutely pardoned, but vvhich is more meruelous, they are vwith great summes of mony ritchly rewarred. And such subiects of his, that as rebells do yet remaine out vnpardoned, are themselues the cause thereof, because they seeke it not.

There their
first cause of
rebellion
vvas for
heresy,
vvhich no
one of their
priuileges
allowed.

As those of
S. Germain
denbreg,
&c.

It is further to be considered, that there is no Kynge in *Europe*, that hathe more different natiōs, of more diuers landes & languages to his subiects, then his Maiesty hathe. The entire Monarchie of

Spain, conteyning sundry kyngedomes, is gouerned in one moſte flouriſhing and peaceable eſtate, and the Prouince of *Portugall*, newly annexed there vnto, remaineth in more better condition, then it was in other tymes afore. The nobilitie thereof, notwithstanding ſome reſiſtance at the firſt, after that they had maturely cōſidered the cauſe, together with his maieſties mercyfull diſpoſition, & leſte of to preferre the pretence of Don *Anthonyo*: were not only receiued into his great grace and fauour, and confirmed in their owne auncient poſſeſſions, but were further gratified by his Maieſty, with ſundry great honours and dignities. And the comon people eſtſoones releaſed of many great taxes and tributes, that their former princes had impoſed vppon them.

He hathe of *Italians*, thoſe of the Kyngdomes of *Naples* and *Sicilia*, the duchie of *Millan*, and of diuers Iles of the *Mediterraneum* ſea.

He hathe *Germanes*, of the Duchie of *Luxembourg*: And *Burgundians*, of the higher prouince: beeing all gouerned in great quiet, and farre better eſtate, then euer vnder any other, their former Princes. Hauing found no conqueſt, thraldome, mutation, or inconuenience whatſoeuer to auoy them but fully enioy the comfortes and comodities of their countries, vnder the obedience of ſuch a ſoueraigne, as hathe more better mighte & meanes to defend them, then any Prince his people in the world, moſte free and farre from any lykelyhoode of rebellion. In which ſame obedience, his ſubiects of the *Netherlandes*, had doubtleſſe longe liued, had they not bin ſituate ſo neere the noyſome infection of their Engliſhe neighbours, whoſe
pernitious

pernitious venim, hathe not only anoyed them, but also France, and Scotland, the next inhabitants on the other sydes: And whose malice so exceedeth, were there meanes according, that they would not leaue, neither Europe nor India, free from such infection.

And for a further proof, of his Maiesties mylde nature, and princely benignitie, I shall desire you to consider, that there is nothing that can possibly, more moue and stir vp the indignation of a Prince, then the open disloyall and repugnant insolency, of his owne people. And that no subiects in our dayes, haue exceeded his, all the vworld will witness. Notwithstanding all which, looke whether any bloody, cruel, or vnchristian desire of reuenge, hath appeared in him, and looke whether it be possible that more lenity mighte be shewed vnto such, then his Maiesty hathe donne. The truthe whereof, beeing so apparent, plaine & manifest, I leaue vnto your owne self in cōsēcyēce to discern whether these examples of his Maiesties proceedings, will not sufficiently answer, vnto all the calumnies and lies, that his aduersaries can possibly inuent to make him odious. Looke whether after such a generall reuolt wherein so many had so iustly deserued to loose bothe their liues, & liuings, whether their *lands* are deuoyded to *straungers*, their *wyues* violated, their *Children* marked with *hot Irons*, their *goods* robbed and taken from them, &c. Or rather, whether they do not liue in all securitie and quiet possession of their owne. And yf by reason of the restraunte of their trafique they are not presently in their former abundance, they may wholly impute that vnto you, beeing the only

cause thereof. But of the like compassion had of a Prince on his people, you cannot shew any examples past or present, in the whole world.

This Sweete and gracious disposition of his Maiesty, beeing so publyke, & notorions, how is it possible, that euer such vnchristia cruelty, could more be intended to the Englishe nation, then to any others: or that any man of sence can imagine, why he should more hate them, then any his owne treacherous and rebellious subiects. His great wisdom well seeing, and obseruing, that the originall of this rancour, principally proceedeth from some fewe in present aucthoritie, whose vngracious designs are executed by persons, neither of honour, nor honesty. And others of the vulgar sorte of people, who with applause of their superiours, concurr in these courses: he can well discern, rather to do it of litle discretion, then of great malice: themselves not beeing of capacitie, to consider the equitie, or iustnesse of the cause. And his Maiesty esppecially considereth, that great multitudes, are ouer borne, by the impious tyranny, of powrable persons, outwardly to condescend to that, which inwardly they contemne: sustayning contrary to the nature of so noble a Nation, the generall reproche of particuler mens dishonorable actions: whose case doubtlesse, he dothe rather pittie, then desire to punish.

All the world knoweth that his Maiesty hath euer had a most singuler affection to the Englishe people, and your selues by experience haue perfectly found it. There could neuer kynge cōdescēd to cōditions more honorable & profitable for you, then his Maiesty did at his beeing in England.

I suppose

I suppose monsieur of fraunce, in his late mocke marriage, neuer offred you the like. His Maiesties actions were without dissimulatio, as the consequence well declared, for beeing married to your Queene, and proclaymed Kynge, yet soughte not to settle himself in the Crowne: nor to possesse any portes, townes, or castells, in the whole countrie. But after the deccasse, of the moste vertuous Queene *Mary* his wyf, gaue place and quyet entrance vnto the Lady *Elizabeth*. Giuing also vnto her, all his said wyues Jewells, which himself mighte iustly haue claymed and kepte. And presently after her coming to the crowne, he then being vpon conditions to conclude a peace with the frenche kynge, vppon the taking of *S. Quintines*, did moste earnestly stick, at the redringe of the towne of *Calis*, to the Englishe againe: she hauing at that present her ambassadors there, and as it seemed, for the same purpose, but after his Maiesty had so earnestly vrged this matter, that vnlesse it mighte be graunted there could be no accomde the french then flatly confessed, that notwithstanding the Englishe outwardly solicited for *Calis*: yet they had secretly assured them, that their Queene cared not therefore: which his Maiesty afterward founde so in dede, and perceaued the fraude, that it imported. But to leaue these deuyses, to other like dooble dealings, let vs returne to the tyme, when our Kinge remained with you in England: and see with what affable curtesy he entreated you, what great liberalitie he vsed to all sortes in generall, and what honorable pensions he gaue to all your Noble men in particular, with infynite other fauours: among all which, the sauing of this womans lyf, who beeing committed,

*First with
what.*

*After
with o-
thers, as the
letters found
about her
testified.*

mitted, and in case to be condemned, not for religion, for she had and hard Masse, pretending to be Catholique: but for conspiringe of treason, and rebellion, against her soueraigne, and sister: was a benefyte (as it seemeth) not best bestowed, because it hath bin woorst requested, sundry other signes of his moste affectionate fauour, hath he shewed to your nation: and of all others the greatest is, that he hath had so longe patience, to reuerge so many iniuries, as from thence he hath receyued, Notwithstanding all those, he hath euer continued his princely, benignity, neuer hurting nor hating, the good for the euill, but relieuing numbers with very large entretainements, who hauing abandoned, the comodities of their country, for their consyence, and religion, haue retired themselves to liue in his dominions. Yea his bounty and beneuolence, in very meere giftes, and liberalities, to sundry nations in generall, are so great: that he freely giueth away by the yeare, more then the Queene of England can yearely dispend. What should I be tedious to stand vppon those points, that his enemyes intend, to haue bin his intention: or the termes of tyranny, that euery hedge minister, can amplyfy against vs.

That you should all haue bin broughte vnder the bondage of strangers, who had made deuision of your lands and lyuings amonge themselves, as though all *Spaine*, and *Portugall*, the *Indies*, east and west, *Italy*, and the *lowe Countries*, yea almoste half the world, were so pestred with people: that there were no habitation lefte for vs, but that we must needes by daunger of sea and land, seeke to take it from you perforce: whereas you may well

knowe, there hath no necessitie constreyned vs, to abandon our landes, and liuings, in our owne naturall and ample cuntry of *Spaine*, which we prefer before any *septentrionall* region. And albeit we were enforced to change our residence, yet can we make choise of many places, as frutefull and pleasant as England is, and obtaine them, with farr lesse difficulty. It may be, that this perswasion of danger to loose there landes, hath moued fundry of your gentlemen of late dayes, to sell away theirs, and to purchase more assured credit, haue sett themselues forvard in great brauery, to be seene in your seruice, for the which I doubt not, but they haue bin rewarded with kynde courtly countenances: and are in possibilitie, so soone as occasion shall require, with easy sute (for there full recompence) to obtaine protections, that no officer shall arrest them, when they shall haue lesse mony then land.

*Protections
are the best
rewards
that they
are to ex-
pect.*

Your impudent ministers, whose mouthes are made the trompets, to sounde oute vnttruthes: can tell you as confidently, as had they bin of the Kyn- ges counsell, into what great bondage you should haue bin broughte, and how-much your liberty, should haue bin abridged. Maruell not that these companions, call your reformation a conquest: and condemne the moſte Clement Kynge of the world, of intended cruellty it behoueth them moſte, to speake in this matter, and to exercyse to the vttermoſte, the loudnes of their lying, because it concerneth aswell their owne benefyte, as those from whome they receaue their instructions, per- haps in deede, the large liberty that they take to them selues had bin somewhat abridged, & many a

*The ordina-
ry preachers of
sermons.*

Royall and Noble sermon leste vnmade, wherewith
these wedded priests of *Bzal*, do maintaine their
women, and new generation.

*The rebelles
of France &
Flanders.*

This bondage semeth to be the more grieuous,
because it is said to be vnder straungers: would to
God there were lesse difference, betweene Chri-
stian and Christian, and more discord, betwene
Englishe, and *Turke*, you haue not had so fewe, as
fifty thousand straungers amonge you, more then
twenty yeares together, and therefore you mighte
the better beare, a smaller number.

That your wyues and daughters should be de-
flowred, is a matter, that more men then ministers
cannot brooke, and yet seldome amonge soldiers
not guyded by good disciplyne, this plague in par-
ticuler is incident, but hereunto can I tell you,
that your liberty of the late Gospell hath prouy-
ded a more sufficient remedy, to auoyde this incō-
uenience, then any other: insomuch that such of
the soldiers themselues, as were so ill disposed,
could tell, that they should fynde harlots more
then enoughe, alredy prouided.

Those terrible tales, that we broughte Irons
wherewith to marke your Children, vnder the
age of seauen yeares, to the end they mighte be
knowne, to be the race of a conquered nation, do
doubtlesse sounde moste lamentably: but to com-
forte you herein, thus much may I say, that albeit a
man do vtterly refuse to belieue them, I dare
warrant him, he shall neuer be damned, for that
incredulitie: but by the way I could wishe you to
note, that yf they did not thinke they had framed
the people to belieue what they list they would
neuer feede them with such palpable vntruthes,

and yf

and yf therefore you ſhall thinke them, to haue as litle honeſty, as they thinke you to haue witt, you ſhall do them no iniury at all.

That your goods ſhould be robbed and taken from you, you neede not greatly feare, for it ſemeth that now of late, more then here-tofore, her Maieſties collectours and receyuers, haue taken ſuch order to take it from you, to ſaue it from vs: that they haue ſent it oute of England to Zealand, and other places ouer the ſeas, wherefore you needed not feare this miſery: but rather haue hoped, that Spaniſh piſtolets, ſhould haue bin more comon and currant in England, then euer they were afore. To the other ridiculous, and friuolous forgeries, that we broughte halters to hange you, and whips to whip you, I can ſay litle, other then that I am very ſory, that in all this ample prouiſion, we forgot to bring whetſtones to giue to thoſe that told you this, and bables for ſuch as did belieue them.

But to leaue all ſuch abſurd lies, to the wiſdomes of the creditors, it is more neceſſary to ſee whereunto they ſerued, & whether theire further meaning, may thereby be made manifeſt. The trueth is, and eaſely it dothe appere, that they were not only inuented, to make them moſte odious, that ment you leaſt euill: but alſo to blynde and bleare, the eyes of the people, by putting into there heades, the feares of future miſeries, to the end they ſhould the leſſe behold, there owne preſent calamities, and thoſe that by their improuident practiſes are ſure to enſue, albeit they neuer had neede to feare any forraine enemy: but to leade dryue and diſpoſe of you, as of brute beaſts, without

soules, sence, or vnderstanding: where & to what, themselves like and allowe, euer prouyding to keepe you in ignorance, and principally of that, which moste concerneth your owne comon welfare: as amonge others it plainly appeereth, in the prohibiting vnder great paine, & deuising of othes of association, that none may once moue, or call in question to knowe, who is to succede their Queene, after her deathe: as though it were treason to say she should die, or an insufferable cryme to knowe that, whereof they might receaue comforte, of continuing their owne quyet, after her decease. And as though they desyred all felicity to end with them, not caring what confusion, ciuill discention, and bloudshedd, might afterward fall amonge the Englishe, by the Englishe themselves. A resolution doubtlesse moste indurable, and vnchristian: vnnaturall is that father, that throughe inordinate auarice, leaueth his family to fall to all discorde and discention. But impious is that prince, that in preserving disordered pleasure, leaueth the people in such possibilitie to be killed, in the confusion of so many competitours.

But lett vs looke into lesse matters then thease, and see whether they deny not, the very priuileges of reasonable creatures, prohibiting by publyke comaundement, that none may once aske or enquire, how thinges do ordinarily passe in the world abroad. Neither to demaunde, heare, read, or write, any newes of any matter whatsoeuer, be it true or vtrue: yea scarfly of that, which toucheth mens priuate negociations. The only restraining of which free speech, is of it self a very

euydent

euydent and sufficient signe, of a Tyrannous estate, and a markable suspition, of sinister dealing. By this brydle you are rayned and broughte, to all beastly & flauishe seruytude, withoute any knowledge or consideration, either of reason, cause, or consyence, of that wherein bothe your bodies and soules are employed: and somuch of your substance contributed, which to the menaginge of thease vniust quarrels haue bin so great and so grieuous, that it hath exceeded all the former subsidies and exactiōs, that any leauen of your princes predecessours, haue had of their subiects, to make their lawfull warres. You pay, what they please to demaūde, you beare what they list to lay vppon you, you are made to say and soothe, to whatsoeuer they will, be it neuer so false, fonde, and vnlykely: you are pressed, compelled, vnpaid, clapt vnder hatches, and caryed you knowe not where, nor to what end, & when such of you as are lefte aliue, do returne home againe (yf not caryed sick throughe the streets of London by whole carte loades, in the Lord of Lecester his *Trophee*) you see how you are rewarded, and how your credit and condition is encreased, by that it was afore.

You are cutt of from all trade and trafique, with the moste ritche, and opulent countries aboute you, retaining no hope of any outward comoditie, other then can be gotten by robbery and piracie. The prosperitie whereof you fynde such, that you see your selues no whitt thereby disburdened, of any your encreasing subsidies, and exactiōs.

This great misery and dayly desolation, dothe more and more make, your *Gentlemen* bare, and your *Marchants* banckrupte, it consumeth the

Commons, and continually wasteth the wealth of the Realme : As wisemen do see , though they dare not say it , and all men do fynde , though they do not see it . It would exceede the compasse of a letter , to lay open vnto you euery important affliction , but that I shall not neede , for experience will teach you to descerne them , each day more then other , and you shall further fee the smart , before you fynde the remedy .

Wo worthe the causers of your calamities , who for their owne priuate ambitious desire to rule , haue run on , in all desperate and dangerous attempts whatsoeuer : and haue lastly by violence , drawne vppon their owne heades , that which neither theselues , nor the whole Realme can vphold .

Where are now those infallible groundes , that your great *Machiauelist* , laide downe at the beginning , when he so boldly presumed to alter religion , and to begin his new Gospell , with an extraordinary gouernement , whose resolutions to continew the Republique , were according to the direction of the vnholly Ghoste , in the determininge of religion .

The first was , to establishe their estate , by main-
tayning rebellions of the subiects of *France*, *Flaunders*, and *Scotlande* .

That failing , the second was , by the credit that they had in the lowe Countries , to giue and transpose parte thereof to the frenche : and thereby to kindle a warr , betweene the two houses , of fraunce and Spaine .

This failing , then to ioyne with , and to giue portes and succours , to all pirates , to vex and annoy the said two houses , yf they should ioyne .

And lastly

And lastly, thease all failing, there was one remedy left to redresse all againe: which was, by the new singing, of an old maingy *Masse*: so vilely it pleased him to terme the moſte blessed Sacrifice of the Church, where by the way, you haue here to note the religion of an *Athiest*.

I am enforced for breuitie, to lay downe vnto you, when, where, and in what manner, thease plottes haue bin put in practyse: neither shall I now greatly neede to stand thereon, for to the woonder of the world, the annoyance of their neighbours, the ignominy of themselves, and the imminent danger of the whole Realme, the three former (perhapps corrected, & augmented, by the authour) haue bin very orderly effectuated, the last remedy only remayning.

All which plottes and practises, tyme & truthe, hauinge ouerworne and discovered: you are now to cōsider, what benefites they haue broughte vnto you. And therefore looke into what state and condition you are now leſte, and to what hope and possibilitie you are deliuered: ſee firſt, whether themſelues, in their hoary heares, are not full of feare and perplexitie, whether the people be not generally in pouertie and decay, and the Realme in reſtleſſe tourmoile and trouble: And being abandoned of all exteriour comforte, whether any one powrable Chriſtian prince, knowing your cauſe, dothe compaſſionate your cauſe, and laſtly looke, whether you are not leſte to retyre, to *Turckes*, *Moores*, and *Barbarians*, for ſuccour.

The Kyngdomes of *Scotland*, *Denmarcke*, *Swethen*, and ſundry ſtates of *Germany*, that maintaine opinions, contrary to the *Catholique faith*, from the
which

*The Engliſhe
practiſe
with Tur-
kes & other
infidells a-
gainſt Chri-
ſtendome.*

which they are false, and in the which, the moste parte of Christendome dothe remaine : are not in any such feare : either of forreyne or domesticall daungers. They make not such ordinary exclamations, and false alarmes, of treason and treachery, neither do they thereupon, Tyrannously practise to cutt of, and kill, whome they please : for albeit that they are almoste as farr infected, with as soule heresies, yet haue they muche more morrall honesty: their heresy hauing only hurte themselues, and they not seeking the hurt of others. They haue not supported the rebellions of other subiects against their soueraignes, neither haue they practised with *Pagans* or *Turkes*: they haue quartered no priests, nor Murthered no *Queenes*, nor made triumphes of ioy & victory, vpon the committing of moste monstrous iniustice, neither by any other publike barbarous vilanies, broughte themselues in such dread and distresse.

They made
fiery and
feasts for
ioy vpon
the murdres
of the *Queene*
of *Scotland*.

And that it may more better appeere vnto you, how your dealings, are lyked and allowed, of other protestant princes: it is not impertinent to my purpose, to giue you one example. At such tyme as it was bruted abroad, that your *Queene* had resolved to entrude herself into his Maiesties dominions, a marchant of the lowe Countries, arryuing at *Stockholme*, was demaunded of the Kynge of *Sweden*, whether it were true that the *Queene*, of *England* had put herself in possession of any the Kynge of *Spaine* his countries, or townes there, yea quoth he it is true: Then quoth the Kynge, she hath euen stakte downe her owne crowne, and standes in faire possibilitie, to be put out of all. Me thinkes your self, or any indifferent Englishe

protestant.

protestant, whose zeale dothe not ouerbeare his discretion, may muche maruell, that England so much and so many wayes seeming to be troobled, is so litle pittied of other people in the world abroad. And beeing gouerned by a woman, your case muste be the more capable of pittie, seeing men naturally are giuen, to compassionate that sexe. But alas my good freind, you may see these false faces dismask'd long since, and all the world, to be aswell acquainted with Englishe clamours, as is the fischer of *Nylus*, with the teares of the Crocodile. Neither can any of those vaine, false, & lying libells, that from thence are spread abroad, any whit now a dayes serue your turnes, other then to noosell vp those, that you can keepe from seeing or hearing the contrary, for how cunningly soeuer the couloured woordes therein are contriued, men make your actions the comentaries.

In the durance of your expyred yeares, your prince enioyed the fulnesse of her pleasure, and her fauorytes their vncontrouled aucthoritie, then advancinge their felicitie, and vsing all benefytes of tyme: after all which, you now rest doubtfull, whether your play will conclude, as a comedy, or tragedy: the truthe of all felicitie beeing tryed at the last, and no assured happynesse afore the end.

When I enter into consideration, of the present state of your country, I call to remembrance, that at my beeing at *Salamanca*, some fyue yeares paste, an Englishe Gentleman shewed me, the woorke of an old Englishe poet, beeing the moste renowned, that euer wrote in the Englishe tongue: in the begining whereof were certaine verses, which in manner of a prophesy, so perfectly discribed then,

D

the future

the future state of England, that at this day, it is the very liuely pourtraict thereof *ad Viuum*. I requested of him the sence in Spanishe, and the meeter in English, which is thus.

*When faith faileth, in priests saues,
And lords bestes, are held for lawes,
And robbery is reckned purchase,
And leachery is counted solace:
Then shall the land of Albion,
Be broughte to great confusion.*

Althoughe I haue hard, that by the new lawes of England, it is made a trespasse, no lesse then treason, to talke of old propheties: yet haue I presumed to repeat thease English rymes, because they are comon to be redd, in publyke printed bookes amonge your selues. That the authour had the spirite of prophesy I will not say, but how this accordeth with the present tyme, your self shall see.

First touchinge the failing of the faith, it is manifest that he ment no other, then the faith Catholique, which had so longe lasted, & so vniuersally bin believed: and was there then preached & taughte by priests, for ministers at that tyme were vnmade and created: which faith is now failed in those apostataes, from whence your ministers fetch their original: diuers of them being yet lyuing, that somtyme said *Masse* in the Catholique Church, and do nowe say Comunion in the protestant congregation. The effect of which great defect of faith, hath in a short season so sufficiently appeered, not only in the encreasing companies, of many sortes of protestants, puritanes, Anabaptistes.

Anabaptistes, and louing families, but euen in the bringing forth of sundry such monsters, as dare boldly deny our sauiour Christ himself: whereby you may see, that forsaking the faith that contemned all heresy, you haue embraced a doctrine, that conteyneth all blasphemy.

*As Haman
Levius
Cole.
Kett, &c.*

Euery man in his owne particuler experience, hath had such infynite examples, of your notable corruption of English iustice, that he seeith, it is better to haue a bad cause, supported by the fauour of the courte, then a good cause, withoute the credit of a courtier: The authoritie of those lordes, hauing of late dayes extended so far, as to the discharging of suche oute of prison, as haue lyen vpon executions, leauing their creditours vnsatisfied. Suche was the soueraigne puissance, of the late Lorde of *Lecester*, that he could not only extinguish his owne manifest murthers, and open iniustice, but his Lord-ships will was a lawe sufficient, to defend the faultes of others: and his great plenty of protections, of more force then vertue. *Mony, mighte, and fauour*, doe so sway the iustice of England, and so alter the condition of euery case, that more wilfull murthers, capitall felonies, and criminall offences are now pardoned, then euer afore. There are none that can liue, whome they list to kill: nor none can offend, whome they please to fauour. Truthe it is, that there is nothing punished more then vertue, nor nothing permitted more then vice. There is no blasphemy comparable to the denyall of feminine supremacy, nor no offence against God, so grieuously punished. There is no deathe so terrible, as that which is ordained for deuoutest Christians, nor nothing more

*Extreme
violating of
Iustice.*

*D. Iulio,
&c.
Those that
had indebted
themselves
by his
service of
Holand be
rewards
afterward
with pro-
tections.*

*The iudge
can tell,
the jury
whether
the Quene
will haue
the accused
found guilty
or not.*

offensyue, then the faithe of their forfathers : who yf they were aliue and Catholiques , their children would condemne, and quarter for traytours.

*The greater
parte of the
nations ma-
ritimes in all
Europe,
haue bin rob-
bed by the
Englisb.*

*As Sir
Frauncis
Drake, &c.*

According to your good Religion, and wel orde-
red lawes, the rest of your actions , do rightly con-
curr: and your open allowance of rapyne and rob-
bery , dothe manifest to the world, that you haue
made a resignation of all honnour, and abandoned
all honesty: not caring what the whole world pre-
sent, nor all posterities to come, shall accompte of
your actions: the blot & blemishe thereof , beeing
so reprochefull , that Englād somtyme so famous,
for vertue and iustice, is now esteemed a receptacle
for pyrates, and a den of theeues . And those litle
companions , that are there dayly hanged for try-
fles, beeing suche (for the moste parte) as your sel-
ues haue robbed first, by employing them in your
seruice, withoute giuing them their payes, wherein
hauing consumed their owne substance , are after-
ward enforced to steale, for the very maintenance
of lyf: Are not hanged somuch for the facte , as for
the manner of comitting it, for yf they did it, in
any place oute of England , were it neuer so farr
westward , nor neuer somuch in value , it should
be reckned very righte and lawfull purchase. And
they should be so farr from the danger of han-
ging , that they should be rewarded with the
dignity of knyghthoode.

Touching the sinne of Leachery , I can litle say,
other then by heare say. And that is , it was neuer
more comon in the country, nor of more credit in
the courte : no, not before the enlarging of *Kenelm-
worthe Castell*, nor in the erecting of *Haumbey* house
nor during the tyme of the setting vpp of all the
edifices,

edifices, situate vpon the lyke foundation: as it hath bin since the very finishing, of *Rauleghs Arcke*.

Thus you may see, how Faith is fayled, Robbery allowed, and Leachery moste delighted in. The confusion to follow, is now nexte to be expected: but by whome, when, and in what manner, resteth in the deuyne disposition, of almighty God, whose Iustice, no earthly power (much lesse any English policie) can possibly resist.

Tyme woorketh alteration in all things, and in this world there is nothing, that is not subiect to change: all estates encrease, diminish, are tossed, turned, fall, and are destroyed. Which consisteth not, as *Plato* the heathen Philosopher saith, in the circuyte and limmits of a certaine Period: but in the pleasure, of the Celestiall Soueraigne. Those hauing their beeing moste assured, and durable, that are founded on religion, and iustice.

All plants saith our sauiour, that my heauenly father hath not planted, shalbe plucked vp by the rootes. All temporall gouernments throughout the world, notwithstanding all worldly wit, power, and practises, whatsoeuer: haue and do daily, so alter and change, that fewe or none can be founde, to haue continued any long course of tyme, in one order and rule. Only the Catholique Church of Christe, depending vpon the direction of the holy Ghoste, hath still remayned in one same faithe and visible Monarchie, almoste sixtene hundred yeares. During which tyme, diuers kyngdomes haue bin diuersly trasposed vpsyde downe: and those only found to be least subiect to mutation, that moste haue bin directed by the gouernours of that Church.

Sap. 6.

His excellen-
tie alias Le-
op. 17.

The aforefaid philosopher faith further, that Republicques are neuer happy, but when princes are louers of wifdome, or louers of wifdome do rule: but *Salomon* speaking by a mouthe more deuynne, exhorteth princes to fearche (true) wifdome, to the end, they may raigne luftly in earthe, and eternally in heauen. Would to God, the resolution of your rulers, had bin laid vppon thefe groundes, then had the moft woorthy for wifdome and vertue, bin preferred, and none for vice, and vilany, aduanced to chiefest aucthoritie. Then had not his late *excellsi* obtained the greateft rule of all, becaufe of all others, he kepte the greateft ill rule himfelf: then had they neuer vpholden there vnftable eftate, by the only annoyance of their neighbours, nor by their great iniuftice, drawne fo many daungers, together at the laft. Then had the begining bin Godly, the continuance quiet, and the end happy.

Thil. de Co-
munes.

The Realme of England, hath in other tymes, bin as often fubieft to chaunge, as other countries in the world: but more comonly carying therewith, the blood of the beft nobility: what great effufion of blood, enfued the coronation of Kynge *Henry* the fourthe, at what tyme, the diuifion of the two houfes of *Yorcke*, and *Lancaster*, began: which lafted the lyues and reignes, of three Kynges following, and was not wholly extyncte, vntill the tyme of Kynge *Henry* the feauenth. During which tyme, there died in diuers battailes, skirmifhes, and executions, foure fcore, of the blood Royall: and the very flowre of the Nobility of England, with infynite other valiant perfonages, befides fundry Lords and gentlemen, consumed
in prifons

in prisons at home, or enforced abroad in banishment, miserably to end the rest of their dayes. In this great confusion, each party as they preuailed, condemned the other for traitors: that in the end, all the whole nobilitie and people, were on the one and the other syde, so taken and vsed. Since which tyme, euen of late, in our owne age and memory, we haue seene sundry chaunges: amonge all which, our Lord delt moste mercifully, when moste daunger was feared: at what tyme, Iohn Dudley Duke of *Northumberland*, hauing maryed the Lady Iane to one of his sonnes, and proclaymed them Kynge and Queene, thereby to exclude and cut of the righte of *Queene Mary*, and pretence of *Elizabeth*, it pleased the deuyne prouydence so to dispose, that with-out battaile or bloudshed of the people, the punishment only extēded, to the principall parties, and some fewe accessaries themselves,

Thus may sundry examples of your owne changes shewe you, that alterations are no newe thinges: but that they are bothe comon and generall. Neither can any be so sencelesse (althoughe suche great iniquity had neuer bin cōmitted) as to think your estate were euer stable, or that no new gouernment, did not euer bringe at the least, the change of many mens particuler estates.

But the case beeing now such as it is, that his Catholique Maiesty, is not only highly iniured, and continually vrged: but the whole repose and quyet of Christendome so disturbed, that either his Maiesty or some other prince, must of force seeke the reformation of your country: not for any particuler comoditie, but for a generall good. Whereunto in truthe, his Maiesty is especially more obligated.

obligated, then any other: insomuch, that yf there were no cause at all of religion to moue him, yet in regard of the comon iniuries, dayly donne vnto him, he is euen bounde in righte, reason, and iustice, to do it: & that yf neither he, nor any other should attempte thesame, you are notwithstanding assured of ciuill dissention, no heire to the Crowne apparently knowne, and so many competitorious, to make claime at once, and the wrathe & indignation of God, for so great impietie, by one meanes or other to be satisfied: I cannot see whether the plague of ciuill war, will be easier, then the inconuenience of foreyne inuasion: neither can I see, how you can auoyde the leaste of them bothe. Neither do you desire with Dauid, rather to fall into the handes of God, then into the handes of men, but persist in the augmentation, of your wounted wickednes.

It may somtymes please God of his great mercy, to spare a whole citie, for a fewe iust persons therein. And the only hope that remayneth, for the easy reclayminge of your country, is the blood of so many martirs, there powred oute: which being so pretious in his sighte, may be the meane so to mitigate his highe indignation, that the innocent shall not be confounded with the impious, but rather, that many multitudes by there meanes may be saued.

It may also stand with his great goodnesse, to make his Catholique Maiesty the meane, for the recouery thereof, not to conquer, or make mutation, of auncient lawes and liberties, which he neuer intended: but only to reduce it, to the old concord and communion of christendome. This
doubtlesse

doubtlesse would be the happiest, & easiest meanes of all other: the heroycall endeouours of his Maie-
 sty considered: whose proceedings in all mercy,
 myldnes and grace, lie open to the vewe, of hea-
 uen and earthe, neither needeth the tounge or pen
 of any man, declare them: excepte only, to manifest
 the malice of his aduersaries, vnto those whome
 they so impudently abuse. His Maiesty also much
 relying (amonge others of greatest wisdom and
 vertue of your owne nation) vpon the graue
 counsell and aduise, of the *Cardinall* of England,
 whose exceeding care and naturall affection, to his
 deare country, is awnswerable to his great vertue,
 wisdom, & learning. You are not heere to regard,
 the raylings of those, that accompte his grace and
 all the other exyled Englyshe, traytors, & enemies,
 to their countrie: falsly saying, that they haue sold
 it, to the Pope and Kynge of Spaine: as though it
 were possible, that so great impiety, could remaine
 amonge so many, so vertuous, so wise, so learned,
 so honorable, and so vnited in consanguinitie,
 throughout the whole countrie: that your Cardi-
 nall (as I am well enformed) is of kin and alyance,
 almost vnto all the Gentlemen, of the countie of
Lancaster. And the other Gentlemen lincked in
 lyke sorte, welnighe vnto all the honorable and
 woorshipfull families, in euery other prouince,
 being bounde by the very lawes of nature, to the
 loue of their country and kindred, yf no cause of
 religion, or reason els did moue them. And as
 thonghe your superiours owne, notorious vniuste
 actions, did not more vehemently vrge reuenge,
 or hasten reformation, then any persuation els,
 that possibly mighte be made.

Those of your nation that now liue in exile, re-
 taining the true loue, and affection, that Christians
 oughte to cary to their country, preferring the
 soule before the body, do first desire the conuersion
 of there dere countrymen, kindred, & freinds, from
 a confused chaos of heresies, to the one only Ca-
 tholique & Apostolique faith. Nexte, the auncient
 tranquillitie, and quyet accorde thereof, with other
 Christian countries. And to manifest this their
 true and sincere affection they are moſte redy, and
 willing, to aduenture the losse of there owne liues.
 Whereas those that vniustly accuse them, could be
 content, so that their present aucthoritie mighte
 continewe, to suffer your soules in all abhominable
 heresies, to come to vtter damnation, and to leaue
 you in conclusion, to cut the one the others throte,
 and so to lye open to the rapyne and spoile, of so-
 many, as by their meanes you haue offeded. These
 of all others, be the the greatest enemyes to your
 comon wealth, odious to God, and man, and trai-
 tours not only to one prince, and country, but to
 Christ, and all Christendome, and haue cause to
 consider this sentence of the sacred scripture,
Regnum a gente in gentem transfertur, propter iniustitias,
 Eccles. 10. *& iniurias, & contumelias, & diuersos dolos.* that is, A
 Kyngdome is transferred from one people to another,
 because of iniustice, of iniuries, and contumelies, and diuers
 deceyts. These now fynding no further refuge, or
 assured succour, of Turck, traytor, heretyke, or
 Barbarian: do labour to put you, in all feare, of ex-
 treme daunger and detryment, intended against
 you: meaning yf the worst fall, to make your bo-
 dies the Bulwarckes, wherewith themſelues wilbe
 defended: so that you should feele the smarte,
 howsoener

howsoever they shifte with the shame. Which
 harme in dede may happen, to the more wilfull &
 vnaduised, whereas those that be of better con-
 sideration, may fynde the meane of there owne
 safty, and assurance, to rest in themselves, by
 embracing those remedies, that it shall please
 God of his great goodnesse, in such cases to pro-
 uide. Vnto whose deuyne wisdom, & determy-
 nation, all must euer be referred, and vnto whose
 holy protection, I comend your self: Wishing
 vnto all your countrymen, the due considera-
 tion of their case, and the best auoydance
 of their calamytie, from Calis this
 of Maye, 1589.

*Your vnfaigned freind vvhose harte
 and hand shall neuer cease to do
 you seruice.*

I. B.

E 2

AFTER

AFTER that I had finished this my letter, vnderstanding that throughe defaulte of wynde, together with some difficulty that the messenger put, about his more safe and speedy passage: he was not lyke to departe so soone, as himself had promised, and I expected, I therefore detained this letter, some dayes in my handes vnsealed, attending suche opportunitie, as mighte neereft concur to our desires.

Whether
the Queene
or Don
Antonio.

In the meane season, I vnderstood by letters from *Roan*, that the great and extraordinary english fleet, furnished at the charges of so many, who either of force, or fauour, had streyned themselves to serue, they knew not well whome, where, nor when: yet now, after long delay, great counsell, and correspondence of freinds, they were departed, from the west parte of England, aboute the first of May, *stilo nouo*: vnder the conduct (by sea) of the glorious & famous man Sir, *Frauncis Drake*, who a litle before, had promised the Queene his mistres, to bring the *Kynge of Spaine* to very great pouerty, and misery. And the charge of seruice by land, was committed to Sir *Iohn Noris*, whose experience, the english were woont greatly to magnify. The rest of their Captaines, and soldiers, were the best that they had: hauing retyred the principall of those, from those partes of the low countries, which they presently possesse.

Very shortly after, I vnderstood by other letters, from the afore said place, and the same party. That the English were arryued, not very farr from *St. James* in *Galitia*. Perhaps with some intention in their way, to haue visited that place, of especial deuotion, to the riches and ornaments there. Where
albeit.

albeit, that very many strangers, from all partes of *Europe*: according to an old custome of christians, do continually come on pilgrimage. And that vnto such, the inhabitants thereaboutes do freely giue leaue, and relief: Yet they now seeing the English to approche, in a manner much different from other pilgrimes, haue accordingly giuen them a farr other kynde of entretaiment, insomuch (that as my freind writeth) those that lately so arrogantly boasted, of some detrimēt of ours: which all the world knoweth, came not throughe english power or puiſance, but by the very wyndes, and seas, which it pleased God to permitt to our punishment: Haue now receyued such a check, for that insolencie, that they may see our selues are made the instruments, by our owne armes, to chastice them. Touching the manner and particularities, I cannot at this present fully certify you. Those your self may there, better vnderstand, yf you haue any secrett freind in courte, otherwise you shall hardly come by the certainty, for I feare it wilbe made treason to talke thereof, among the comon sorte of men.

Yf you can come by the names of those men of marke: number of soldiers, shippes, and artillery, that you haue lost: I pray you vse some meanes, to send them ouer, because I wold gladly see, how our aduises shall differ. The author of the late pamphlet, printed at *London* in English, & frenche, and entituled. *The copie of a letter sent from England to don Bernardine de Mendoza, Ambassador in Fraunce for the Kyng of Spaine*, no doubt, yf he will take the paines, can very well pen it to the print, because I knowe, he will cary a great care, aboute

the putting downe of euery particuler.

*A counter-
fait Catho-
lique.*

And wheras in the begining of that letter, the author seemeth to be very sad and sorowfull: after so late, and long expected comforte, to haue an occasion to signify the lamentable losse, and vtter dissolution, of all hope. Now I can assure him, he may make a peece of amends, in sending ouer at this tyme such good newes, as can somewhat counteruaile the former ill: And yf it shall please him to make an estimate, of the one & the others losses, to see who hath sustained the greater: he must also sett downe some reasons, to shew which of bothe is best able to beare it, & the mooste lyke, soonest to recover it: for by these considerations, a man shall surest come to the certainty. Thus good Sir, vnderstanding of this bearers present occasion to departe, who now attendeth the closing vp of my letter, I am enforced heere to conclude. Once more committing you to God, & wishing you most hartely well to fare.

Iune 1589.



